



DATE: November 2, 2000

TO: All Local Workforce Investment Areas

FROM: Cheryl A. Brush, Chief, Workforce Systems Bureau

SUBJECT: TABE Locator

This memo is designed to clarify limitations regarding use of the TABE Locator and interpretations of TABE Locator scores.

The purpose of the TABE Locator is to indicate the level of the TABE battery an individual should take to accurately identify his/her functioning levels in math, reading, and language skills. The grade level range specific to the test form indicated by the Locator score simply refers to the expected content level of the material in that particular form of the test; it does not refer to the level of the test-taker. The only purpose of a Locator test is to assist in starting the assessment process at the most appropriate level and to save time and prevent frustration on the part of the participant. A test score from the Locator per se is not intended to, nor can it be used to, definitively identify the grade level at which an individual is functioning in a given content area.

For WIA reporting purposes, the TABE Locator should be used only as a general indicator that additional assessment is needed in the area of basic skills. Because of the need to record an individual's basic skills grade level equivalent at program entry, prior to any additional assessment, an individual's score on the TABE Locator may be used to report that individual's grade level functioning in the WIA Management Information System within the broad ranges provided on the table below. You may need to estimate grade levels within these ranges. However, information with which to design an individual's service strategy or establish precise pre-test functioning level for skill attainment purposes will need to come from administration of the appropriate TABE test or other approved sources.

ABE staff caution against case managers inferring any sort of grade level equivalent from administration of the Locator, with the sole exception of the WIA MIS reporting purpose specified above. Scores from the Locator should NEVER be used to track participant progress through the WIA program.

# correct on TABE Locator - (no more than)			TABE test	Grade Range
Reading	Math	Language		
Not recommended for youth at this level*			L	0 - 1.9
6	6	6	E	1.6 - 3.9
10	11	9	M	3.6 - 6.9
14	15	12	D	6.6 - 8.9
15+	16+	13+	A	8.9 - 12.9

* Ordinarily, students/participants who need the L level are not given the Locator; either a referring agency or the interview has indicated that this would be the starting point.

If you have any questions, call Laura Gleason at (208) 334-6299.